

Summary of Final Report

Organization Name: Redwood Community Action Agency – Natural Resources Division

Project Title: Humboldt People Powered Pathways

Amount of Grant Award: \$5,000 (Mini-grant program)

Date of Final Report: October 1, 2008

1. What were the project goals and were they achieved?

The project goal was to complete a case statement for active transportation in Humboldt County to be included in a national lobbying package being led by a national trail organization. The national organization is campaigning for the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill in 2010 to include 40 non-motorized transportation projects of \$50 million dollars to be funded to communities who have demonstrated their readiness to improve “mode-shift” (from traveling by private motor vehicle to walking or cycling) by providing facilities, education and programs related to active transportation.

2. What were the activities undertaken and accomplishments through the completion of this grant?

Tasks included coordinating a team of researchers, project planners, cost estimators, meeting facilitators, mappers, engineers, graphic artists, grant-writers and fundraisers; coordinating a workshop of engineering, public works and other local jurisdiction staff to identify regional non-motorized route connections and opportunities (multiple use trail systems, bike lanes, sidewalks, bus station bike rental programs, safe routes to schools programs, and other ‘active’ transportation facilities and programs); coordinating the solicitation and coalescing of information from numerous local, state and tribal sources; soliciting resolutions and support letters; providing public and stakeholder group education and outreach about the effort; hosting a series of radio shows about the effort; development and submission of a large package of data, information, photos, maps, resolutions, letters and other supporting materials; summarizing the information and making it available online; disseminating information about the completed and available HP3 case statement; and sending a staff member to a national meeting of 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation participants for guidance on strategic next steps. (These activities also received funding support from donations from a variety of community members and organizations.)

The Humboldt People Powered Pathways (HP3) case statement was well received at the national meeting of the 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation. It was one of five submitted from California, approximately 45 were submitted from around the country, and it was the only one from a rural region.

3. What are the lasting benefits of the project?

Coordination of active transportation infrastructure vision between local governments, Caltrans and tribes; generation of public support and understanding for trails as transportation; increased

community dialog on the benefits of active transportation in regards to health, economic development, reduction of greenhouse gases, promotion of equitable transportation options, and quality of life; placement of Humboldt County as the only rural community involved in the 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation and increasing our level of competitiveness to possibly receive \$50 million dollars in federal funding for non-motorized transportation; development of a succinct and compelling Humboldt People Powered Pathways proposal that can be used to solicit funding from other transportation sources. In addition, the State Coastal Conservancy invited two proposals (that they recently funded for a total of 1.965 million), with the imperative in mind that if they have plans and designs complete for CA Coastal Trail segments complete by 2010, these projects will be better positioned for federal funding.

4. How will you continue work started by this project?

The team intends to build on the guidance given at the national meeting in September to promote “mode-shift” of short trips (shifting one-to-two-mile trips made by motorized means to non-motorized means); continue to work with jurisdictions to advance their individual projects; work with Congressional and Senate representatives to ensure the program and Humboldt’s case statement are included in the transportation bill reauthorization; serve as coordinator for the campaign; to monitor, document and report the community’s progress on placing Humboldt at a high level of readiness for non-motorized transportation funding, when it is allocated by the federal government; and seek additional funding to accomplish these tasks.